

THE REHEARSAL.

1. Every body has *Liberty of Conscience* but the *King*.
2. The *Subjects* are *Free-Born*, but not the *King*. The *King* has no *Right* or *Inheritance*, and we can do him no *Wrong*.
3. The *Lutherans* and *Papists* much the same as to *Doctrin*. The difference betwixt the *Episcopal* and *Presbyterian Lutherans*.
4. The *Observer's* Reply to my Answer as to the *Charter* of *King John*.
5. It is *Rank Treason*. And makes the *Queen* to be a *Tyrant*, and an *Usurper*.
6. And all the *Kings* and *Queens* since the Beginning of our *Statute Book*.
7. He proposes to our Imitation the Example of a *Popish* and *Treasonable* *Arch-Bishop* of *Canterbury*.
8. The *Pope* the great Fautor of *Rebellion*, even down to our *Times*.

WEDNESDAY, September 8. 1708.

(1.) *Country-man*. **B**Y what you have said formerly *Master*, it Appears a Strange thing to me, They they who Plead for *Liberty of Conscience* as the *Unalienable Right* of every *Man* born into the World, shou'd yet Deny it to *Kings* and *Princes*! That they must either Lose their *Souls* or their *Crowns*! And that the *Presbyterians* shou'd Maintain this Argument, whose own *Confession of Faith* Declares Chap. 23. "That Difference in Religion, or even *Infidelity*, do's not take away the *Right* of a *King* to his *Crown*! Do they not Believe what they call the *Confession* of their *Faith*? Or did they put it upon the World for a *Banter*?

(2.) Is it a *Persecution* to Deny a *Dissemer* a Good Place on Account of his *Persuasion*, and none to take a *Crown* from him, for the same Reason! Is this against the *Right* of a *Free-Born Subject*, but not against the *Right* of a *Free-Born King*? Or are none *Free-Born* but *Subjects*, that is, *Born Free* in *Subjection*! And are *Kings* *Born Subjects*, and so not *Free*! Have the *Subjects* their *Rights* and *Inheritances*, and has the *King* no *Right* at all, or any *Inheritance*! Then *Wrong* may be done to any body, but to the *King*! And instead of the old *Maxim* of our *Law*, That the *King* can do no *Wrong*, it must be in the New Edition, That no *Wrong* can be done to the *King*.

Rehears. I must stop you *Country-man*. For just now is sent me the *Observer* of 21 last Month Num. 34. which I have not

yet seen, for I am out of the way, and Meet with them but by Chance, and Late. It is full of Old-New Charges upon me. And I must say something to him.

(3.) *Country-m*. But pray, *Master*, first Answer me one Question How it comes that the *Lutheran Princes* in *Germany* are so very Loose in their *Religion*, and near of Kin to *Popery*; whereas I am told they are much more Firm in *Denmark* and *Sweden*, where they are *Lutherans* too.

Rehears. Do you know the Difference 'twixt *Trans-Substantiation* and *Con-Substantiation*?

Country m. One is *Trans*, and the other is *Con*. The rest of the word is the same. And to us *English* Folks they seem to be very near a Kin.

Rehears. So near a Kin then they are to *Popery*, as to the *Doctrin*. But as to the Government of the Church there is a Great Difference. For in *Denmark* and *Sweden*, they are *Episcopal*, and have *Bishops* and *Arch-Bishops*. But the *Lutheran Princes* in *Germany* are *Presbyterians*, and have no *Bishops*. And this is one Reason why they are more Indifferent even as to the *Doctrin*. For the *Disciplin* of the Church is the best Guard, for the *Doctrin*, as has been always found. And the great Errors and *Heresies* that now vex *Christendom* have come in by the *Usurpation* first of the *Pope*, and then of the *Sectaries*, upon the Ancient Primitive and Apostolical *Episcopacy*.

Country-m.

Country-m. I thank you Master. And of all Lutherans keep me from the Presbyterian Sort, for that is Wrong every way. But we'r a Kin to the Athenians, We love New things, and Repent them Late.

(4.) Rehears. Now then I'll go on with the *Observer*, Num. 54. One half of it is upon the Priesthood and the Sacrament. The other upon Government and Coercion over the Crown. I will begin with the Latter, because it Continues the Subject we were last upon. I call his Arguments New-Old Ones. For they are the same over and over again. He sets down a Letter sent him; And gives many Thanks to the Sender, for the Charter of King John to his Barons, which he had set down before, Num. 50. And which I have already Answer'd.

Country-m. But ther is something New. For he Repeats your Answer, and Replies to't. He says you Object, That those Liberties were obtain'd by Rebellion. To which he says, That those Liberties were Never Deny'd, but in Times of Tyranny and Usurpation.

(5.) Rehears. I say they are Deny'd at this Day. And is this Reign a Time of Tyranny and Usurpation? Let the *Observer* look to it? Do's the Queen allow her Barons or Commons to take Arms against her, to seize her Castles, Forts, Towns, Lands, and Possessions, and to Compel her by Force to do what they think Reason, and to Punish her if they think the Transgresses the Law? Will not the Law make any Attempt of this sort to be Treason? Will the *Observer* Venture to Try his Hand? And are not the Laws against Coercion in Force in this Reign? Therefore, according to the *Observer*, this is a Time of Tyranny and Usurpation. And is not this to Call the Queen a Tyrant and an Usurper? I will not Descant what Punishment is Due to this. But I think it Impossible for the *Observer* to Clear himself of this.

(3.) Country-m. You have him Fast, Master, I wou'd not for my best Cow he had so much to say against you. And if you have Quoted the Statutes right (of which I suppose you are pretty sure) not only her Present Majesty, but all our Kings and Queens since the Beginning of our Statute-Book have been Tyrants and Usurpers; nay and our Parliaments too, who have Asserted the Crown to Hold only of God, and Damn'd all Coercion over it. And for his Charter of K. John, it makes no more than if he had Quoted the Murder of Edw. II. Rich. II. or of K. Char. I. And Pleaded these as Precedents for Us to follow at this

Day. A very good Subject to Q. Anne! Is he not? And She is Safest with Men of such Principles!

(7.) Rehears. But he Quotes from Dr. Brady, "That the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, bary acquainted the Lords, that he had found a Charter of King Henry the I. by which, if they wou'd, they might Assert their Liberties they had a long time lost; and that they all Swore in Presence of the Arch-Bishop that they wou'd Strive to Death for those Liberties"

Country-m. A fine stick of Wood that Arch-Bishop! A Papish I warrant him! For all out Protestant Bishops of Canterbury have been Loyal to their Prince, and in his Distress Suffer'd with him. No Conspiracy against the King was ever Form'd or Committed at Lambeth since the Reformation.

(8.) Rehears. You see by this, That the Popes in those times Abetted the Rebellion of the Barons against their King. As they did the Holy League in France against King Hen. III. And its Younger Brother the Solemn League and Covenant in Britain against King Char. I. And generally all Rebellions, to Name no more, or Come nearer our own Times! And these are the Examples the *Observer* wou'd have Us to Follow!

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